WRITTEN OPINION (PCT Rule 66) (Partial translation)

Date of mailing:

13. 01. 2004 (day/month/year)

International application No.:

PCT/JP03/08595

International filing date:

07.07.03

Priority Date:

03. 09. 02

Applicant:

TOYOTA JIDOSHA KABUSHIKI KAISHA

This is the first written opinion

established by International Preliminary Examination Authority.

Box No. I

1. This opinion has been established on the basis of,

X the international application as submitted at the time of filing.

Box No. V

1. Statement

Novelty (N) Yes: Claims 2-5

No: Claims 1, 6-9

Inventive step (IS)

Yes: Claims 2-4

No: Claims 1, 5-9

Industrial applicability (IA)

Yes: Claims 1-9

No:

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP10-246132 [0033] - [0039]

Document 2: JP2000-274270 [0039] - [0041]

Document 3: JP02-027124 all

Document 4: EP 349993 all

Document 5: JP2002-030952 all

Document 6: JP2001-065382 all Document 7: JP2001-171378 all

Claims 1, 7-9

Both D1 and D2 disclose a technique of controlling a skid by lowering degree of composite torque, which is obtained by engine torque and motor torque, when a skid is occurring in a hybrid vehicle.

Claim 5

In addition to the description of D1 and D2, both D3 and D4 disclose a skid control technique of restoring engine torque level gradually after convergence of a skid.

Claim 6

In addition to the description of D1 and D2 mentioned above, D1 further disclose a technique of lowering the degree of the composite torque, by lowering only the motor torque degree while keeping the engine torque degree.

Claims 2-4

D5, D6 and D7 disclose a hybrid vehicle in which a skid is controlled by distribution of torque output to front and rear wheels, when a skid is occurring.

However, any of D1 through D7 does not refer nor suggest relation between a power restriction rate and a torque restriction rate. Thus, features of the claims 2-4 are not obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art.